

# Old Yellowstone District Newsletter

*Published by the City of Casper—Urban Renewal Division*

## West Yellowstone “Road Report”

WYDOT will be overseeing this road project which is slated to begin April 1<sup>st</sup>. The City of Casper will be working in close partnership with WYDOT and their contractor throughout the duration of the project. West Yellowstone Hwy will be reconstructed from Spruce Street back to David Street. This is a 4-block project, and each block will be done separately with a month anticipated to complete each block. Access must be provided to the businesses during construction, per the contract that WYDOT prepared. The general contract was awarded to Hedquist Construction. There will be a preconstruction conference in the next week to discuss the timeline, property specific situations, and an overall communication plan. During the construction period Hedquist will schedule a weekly meeting, each Thursday, to update business and property owners about the progress, and answer questions. The locations will move, but the time will be consistent. The City will publish this information on the OYD website and in the next newsletter when the time is confirmed by the contractor. The final plans for the road construction project can be viewed at WYDOT's office on Bryan Stock Trail or in the City Engineer's Office at City Hall.

Below: WYDOT hosted an open house last fall to present the draft construction plans and solicit feedback for the final design.



The Old Yellowstone District and South Poplar Street Advisory Committee has recently made recommendations to the City Council, provided input and thorough review of the new marketing publication about the OYD, met with WYDOT about the road project this summer, and toured the neighborhood in a City van (see photo above) to determine this year's nominees for redevelopment awards.

### Advisory Committee Members Stay Informed

Meetings are on the 3rd Monday of each month from 4:00—5:00 and are open to the public. We like to move the locations of the meetings to different business locations in the neighborhood each month so please check with the Urban Renewal Division or a property owner representative beforehand. The property owner representatives are Carol Martin (Martin's Co-op), Bob Harrington (Health Dept), Paul Meyer (Wyo Automotive), John Huff (Sound/Cellular), and Ron Salvesson (Knapp Supply).

## OldYellowstoneDistrict.com

Check out the new Marketing Publication included on the home page of our website! This beautiful 28-page piece was a “neighborhood contribution” in its content, and kudos to Adbay for the beautiful design work. You can view and print this marketing piece from the website, purchase a high gloss, bound copy from the City of Casper, Urban Renewal Division, or purchase a CD or jump drive with the file embedded. The marketing publication will be used to showcase the Old Yellowstone District to interested developers, investors, and grant organizations.



**Spring 2010**

**Did you know.....**

The Comprehensive Plan for the Casper Urbanized Area is a joint effort between Natrona County, the towns of Mills, Evansville, Bar Nunn and the City of Casper. The 10-year plan will be created by engaging citizens in shaping a vision for the future and determining the actions we will take. Go beyond wondering about the future and contribute to the planning of the future to reflect your values and the issues you care about.....and be a voice for our redevelopment area. Several of you have attended and participated in previous workshops. Thanks so much!!! Your next opportunity to participate will be Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Citizens will be voting on land use scenarios that were developed by community representatives at two public work sessions in January. The scenarios focus on downtown core development, as well as the land use in the outlying areas of our county. Mark your calendars and plan to attend one of the following... and keep up to date on the 20/20 Vision for our community.

⇒ **Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 10:00 a.m.**

**Casper College- Strausner Student Center, Rm. 217**

⇒ **Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> - 5:30 p.m.**

**Mills Community Center**

♦ *If you know of a property owner or business who is not receiving the newsletters and mailings, please have them contact the Urban Renewal Office and we'll get them added to the list. We do our best to stay on top of “Who's Who in the Neighborhood.”*



## Fall Clean-Up Results !!!

The City of Casper sponsored its 3<sup>rd</sup> OYD cleanup this past fall. We partnered with Waste Connections this time around and were very pleased with the results. Waste Connections provided the dumpsters, and emptied them on a more frequent basis – especially the wood pallets! Property owner and business participation was very positive... as usual. The City decided to label the seven dumpsters with the specific type of debris that should be deposited in them, in an effort to encourage recycling - where possible. There appeared to be good compliance with the efforts at sorting debris into the correct dumpsters. Some of the Advisory Committee members did report that the two dumpsters on the former American Pipe Yard did receive a large portion of public use. The suggestion was made to move those dumpsters to a site more internal to the OYD next time, and not have them as visible to the public.

The total amount of debris collected over the 10-day period was 109,460 pounds. The City hopes that this clean-up event allows you to get rid of old stuff, and make room for merchandise that can be profitable to your business, as well as beautify your property.

**REMINDER: Sign permits and fence permits are required by the City of Casper before work commences. There is no charge, but they must be on file and approved by the City.**

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## Renovations in the Neighborhood.....

Cheers to the new “paint jobs” on the following properties..... they look great and have given your buildings a beautiful face lift!!!!

- The Barnard building, where Value Villa is located 428 S. Elm
- Artist’s Choice – 643/647 W. Yellowstone
- Car Care – 701 W. Yellowstone
- Wyoming Stationery—328 W. Yellowstone

Bulk plants are difficult to beautify, but Homax really stepped up when they were informed that they must make upgrades to security, per the Office of Homeland Security. Darin and his team worked with City staff on the color of paint for the new tanks, and considered color, functionality, and design in the security fencing they installed around the tanks.

The former MPI warehouse is also undergoing some neat upgrades. We’ll visit their plans and progress in the next newsletter.



The new retaining wall at Wyo Central Federal Credit Union is beautiful!! The City Council awarded a \$36,000 grant to the credit union to purchase the concrete block for the retaining wall. The grant was authorized through the City’s core revitalization Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and qualified as an eligible expense under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines. When the retaining wall collapsed after the July 3<sup>rd</sup> flood, public access to the upper and lower parking lots was greatly impacted. City Council acknowledged how critical parking is to the success of downtown Casper. The City worked with the credit union staff and identified the “arrest of severe deterioration” as an eligible CDBG activity.

Have you seen the former Indian Ice/Arrowhead Meat building lately??? Now owned by Dave and Patty McKenzie, it is being redeveloped into a mixed use business and residential building called The Ice Factory. Many of the historical features have been kept in place, or even “discovered” under old walls. Inside the Ice Factory, the addition of glass brick revives memories of the original use of this building in the 1920’s (See photo below). Check it out at

